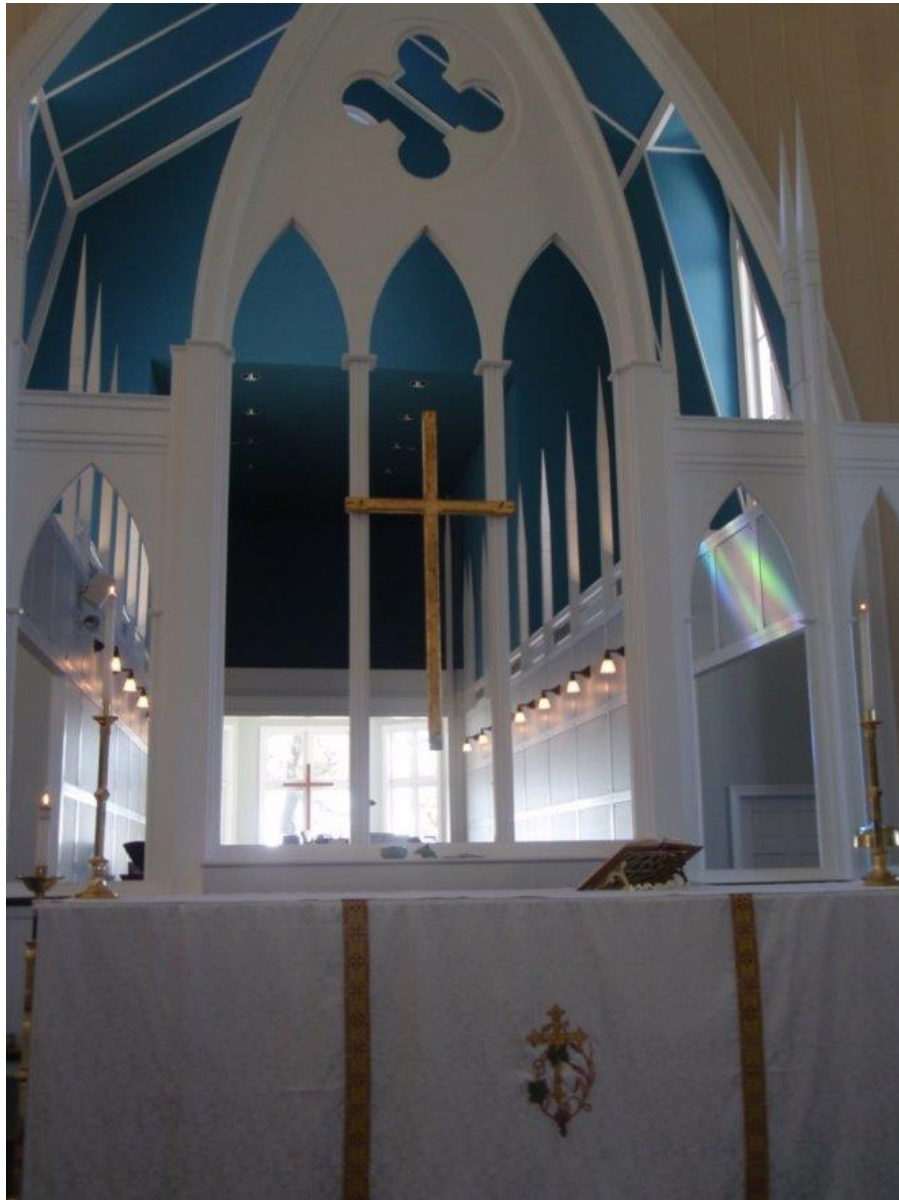


First Baptist Church in Needham

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Transition Edition 2



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One in the Spirit: Transition Prayer Resource

Sunday, July 11, 2021

(for whenever you are so led to pause, reflect, and pray)

858 Great Plain Avenue · Needham, MA 02492

www.fbcneedham.org

¹ Photo: "Quire and Altar," St. Peter's By the Sea Episcopal Church, Gulfport, MS (2014). ©Holly C Benzenhafer 2021.

Scripture

Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. *Selah*

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Take a moment to meditate on these affirmations or repeat them out loud....

God is doing a good work in my life.

God is doing a good work in our community and congregations.

God's vision of my life will be fulfilled.

God's vision for our community will be fulfilled.²

² Adapted from Bruce G. Epperly, *Become Fire! Guideposts for Interspiritual Pilgrims* (Vestal, NY: Anamchara Books, 2018), 148.

We Hold in Prayer...

If you have general or specific prayer requests - joys as well as concerns - to share please contact Holly or Daryn to pass them along.

**As a community of faith in transition, we offer our hearts and voices in prayer
where we are, as we are, along this changing path
entrusting the Spirit's moving among us
and responding far beyond our individual reach and influence...**

Prayers of Gratitude & Thanksgiving

O God, thank you for each new day and all that it brings.

**You promise to provide all that I need, caring not only for me, but for all creation
and so I rejoice...**

With Dorothy in gratitude for the Prayer Resource and pastoral calls...

With Louise for each soul able to know well-being and happiness...

With Ernie for the good folk who provide Meals on Wheels...

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow....

Prayers of Personal Concern, Healing, Solace, & Courage

**Faithful God, you know me inside and out,
all my hopes and dreams, fears and failures.**

**You hear your children cry out for healing and consolation, courage and strength.
Send your Spirit in the sharing of the concerns of our hearts as I pray...**

With the family of Marilyn Blake, long-time beloved member of our congregation, as they grieve her death on July 6, and find consolation as she enters God's nearer presence...

With our office manager, Robin, as she grieves the death of her dear friend, Cheryl, and accompanies Cheryl's children in their mourning her loss as they find hope in her entrance into Creator's embrace...

With Bev for Trevor that he be relieved easily of pain and be able to be comfortable...

With Marty in her ongoing rehabilitation and recovery...

With Ernie that his resumption of Keytruda treatments will have little to no additional side effects...

With Harry as he navigates doctor visits and readjustments to daily life...

With Barbara in her recovery from a gall bladder procedure last week...

Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer....

Prayers in Our Transitions

God of Life, in all of life's turns – planned and unexpected – you are there.

**For the transitions that are hard for me to bear,
grant me the strength to be vulnerable and seek loving accompaniment.**

For the changes I anticipate, grant me hope and wisdom.

**Trusting your Spirit is moving to prepare a place in fellowship and community for
each beloved member of our First Baptist congregation, I pray...**

With Dorothy for members as each one discerns new communities of faith to join...

With Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly for the Administration Ministry's intentional and prayerful work to develop a plan for closing with *Creative Callings*.

Prayers for the Community, Nation, & World

**God of compassion and justice, there is so much in the news that is painful, from
natural disasters to governmental actions to hunger, poverty, and violence.**

And there are so many instances of lovingkindness, beauty, and hope.

Move among your creation and your children, as I pray...

With Bev in concern for the people of Florida and the Eastern seaboard impacted by Hurricane Elsa, and especially the people in Surfside – the families and recovery teams as they continue to retrieve bodies of the souls lost in the condominium collapse...

For the people of Haiti in the political upheaval and unrest following their President's assassination.

For the people of Afghanistan as U.S. troops leave and the struggle for control of the Afghan government heightens with special concern for women and girls who are especially vulnerable...

For the moving of your Spirit in hope and healing throughout our world, praise God, from whom all blessings flow ... And for your enduring presence, justice, and mercy in our brokenness, Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer....

Concluding the Prayer

For the prayers of my heart that you, Holy One,
know even when words cannot hold them...*Hear my prayer, O Lord...*

+++ Offer your own prayers here. +++

Hear my prayer, O Lord...as I pray the prayer your son taught us saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Announcements

Our **church office** is open for our Office Manager, Robin Bevilacqua. We are encouraging limited visits to the church building, and all who visit are required to mask, sign-in, and socially distance. **If you need to speak with Robin, please call ahead if you can.** Pastoral and other church staff are working from home. Office voicemail and email are being checked regularly. **If you have a pastoral concern, contact Pastor Daryn or Pastor Holly by email, phone, or text.**

One in the Spirit: Transition Prayer Resource

As we move through our congregation's transitions to new communities of faith and pastoral care, we honor the ties that "bind our hearts in Christian love." These spiritual ties connect us to one another as we celebrate, offer gratitude, and bear the burdens of each soul together. Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly will continue Calls of Caring and these *One in the Spirit: Transition Prayer Resource* mailings in this interim time.



Boston University School of Theology
Center for Practical Theology

Creative Callings Year 2, Session 3

ADMINISTRATION STEWARDSHIP & PASTORAL ACCOMPANIMENT *through* TRANSITION

With the congregational vote on Sunday, June 27, 2021, the Administration Ministry is tasked with developing a plan for closing the church. We now shift to the third session of Year Two with *Creative Callings*. As the Administration Ministry continues to meet to develop a plan to bring before the congregation, each member of the congregation is also encouraged to do your own good work of prayerfully discerning what community of faith you may wish to visit or consider joining. Pastor Daryn and Pastor Holly are available to offer spiritual and pastoral accompaniment and reflection upon request.

Offering

Your continued financial support of the daily work and ministries of FBC Needham is vital. Offerings can be turned in during Worship on the Lawn, through the church website online, or via mail. May the act of giving be a spiritual practice that accompanies your daily prayer and worship.

Mail Checks to:

First Baptist Church in Needham
858 Great Plain Avenue,
Needham MA 02492

Online:

Go to <https://www.fbcneedham.org>
Click the **Take Action** link & follow the
directions.

Make checks payable to: First Baptist Church in Needham.

Please indicate it is your offering or pledge on the check.



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³ Photo: "Summer Schooner" Boston Harbor (2021). ©Holly C. Benzenhafer 2021.